

MadFolk News

Join us February 25th, When Chad Elliott hits the MadFolk Stage!

♪ Chad Elliott bought his first guitar at an Omaha pawn shop, a dreadnought next to the used guns and knives. He took it home, slowly taught himself to fingerpick and began transposing his poetry writing into original songs.

Elliott always believed he'd be an artist. He spent his youthful years drawing, painting and sculpting, but the more he picked on those six-strings, the more he found familiar ground with his words and the imagery he strived to achieve on canvas. Songwriting became painting with his words and performing on stage became his new exhibition.

Like the dark earth of his Iowa origins, Chad Elliott's life has served as fertile ground for music. Elliott has turned love, loss, fatherhood, divorce and homelessness into lyrics. He performs more than 200 shows each year. He has cultivated more than 1,000 songs in his career while also honing his skills as painter, sculptor and children's book author/illustrator (Wilderman's Treetop Tales).

Elliott's early career demonstrates a love of folk, roots and singer-songwriter music. He has worked with many greats and shared the stage with artists of the highest caliber, including Odetta, Tom Paxton, Loudon Wainwright III, R.L. Burnside, Greg Brown, Bo Ramsey, etc. Today, his songwriting has made a marked shift to Americana.

Elliott has released 19 full-length albums since he began his songwriting career. In 2009, he released "Redemption Man." Elliott worked with

producer and guitarist Bo Ramsey (Lucinda Williams, Greg Brown) on this album to achieve its distinctive electrified roots sound. It also features Pieta Brown on the song, "Same, Old Way," which was the 2009 Woody Guthrie Festival song contest winner as well as a 3rd place winner in the 2009 International Songwriting Contest for the Americana category. Two other songs on this album, "Redemption Man," and "Illinois," won Elliott a new folk finalist spot in the 2008 Grassy Hill Kerrville Folk Festival.

Chad is touring in support of his newest album: WRECK AND RUIN. The following is a partial review of the album:

I know Chad Elliott mostly as a folk artist from Coon Rapids, Iowa. Well, that's how I know him best, but this artist is much much more than just that of a folk artist. This album is total proof of that particular pudding. A major factor in the 'production' of this album is Ken Coomer who gathered together some of the best 'stylist' instrumentalists I've heard in a long time, on an original project. "Swear I Could" brings immediately to me a kind of old-style country story song with the just right and appropriate musical interludes. This particular song also brings Chad's very good voice exactly to the forefront, exactly where it belongs. In America today, the general population sure gets the wrong end of the stick when it comes to gifted artists. We get a kind of 'pop-mass-bubblegum' style of music all over the top-40 charts. We rarely, and I mean RARELY hear the objective beauty of a devoted dedicated artist like Chad Elliott. The line "I've been everywhere but where I should have been," is amazingly complete in context on "Homefire Blues." That's the way Chad 'composes.' Every song on this

album has incredible meaning and interpretation. Ken Coomer brings this all together in the way each song is treated. This is Chad's 20th album, and by my estimation, perhaps his best one yet. Even the title track "Wreck and Ruin" is a very special undertaking for Chad. This album was recorded at Creative Workshop Recording in Nashville.

RECORD REVIEW BY BOB EVERHART,
Pres., NTCMA - www.ntcma.net
for Country Music News International

Mad Folk Concert Tickets

When you see this symbol – ♪ – you'll know that you're reading about a Mad Folk sponsored event. Advance tickets for Mad Folk shows are available online at www.madfolk.org and at these outlets:

- Orange Tree Imports, 1721 Monroe Street
- Spruce Tree Music, 851 East Johnson

Purchase tickets ONLINE for Mad Folk concerts via Brown Paper Tickets (with \$1.62 service charge):

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/10879>

You can also purchase advance tickets by mail. Send a stamped self-addressed envelope with your check payable to Mad Folk, PO Box 665, Madison, WI 53701. If all else fails, call 608-846-9214 for information.

FOR BETTER, OR WORSE - JOHN PRINE

OH BOY RECORDS ~ 2016



Review by Kiki Schueler

According to the liner notes John Prine never intended to make a second duets record, but in the course of recording what was supposed to be a few additional tracks for a deluxe vinyl re-release of his much-loved 1999 duets record *In Spite of Ourselves* he ended up with enough songs for a volume two. Appropriately titled *For Better, or Worse*, this collection finds him repeating a winning formula, classic songs + some of the best female vocalists working = another instant classic. Two of his previous partners make a return for this round, his wife Fiona Prine and Iris DeMent. The latter stole the show the first time around, the best of her three collaborations the sassy title track, also the lone Prine original. The rest of the cast this time around ranges from the venerable and dependable (Kathy Mattea and Susan Tedeschi) to the up and coming (Amanda Shires and Kacey Musgraves).

DeMent and Prine are becoming this generation's unlikely Conway Twitty and Loretta Lynn, and she gets some of the best material on *For Better*. Opening track "Who's Going to Take Your Garbage Out" is a sassy back and forth of hand-wringing and recriminations. She accuses him of running around and being a disrespectful, poor excuse for a husband, "Calling a man like you a husband is just like calling a wild cat a pet." He doesn't deny any of it, his only defense being that if she kicks him out she won't have anyone to take the

garbage out. The best parts of the song are Al Perkins' pedal steel and Dave Jacques' upright bass, which carry the vocals along on a classic country sound, and the unscripted banter that ends the song. "You're going to miss me and my Hefty bags," Prine grins before asking "You miss me yet?" "I'm trying," the put-upon DeMent laughs. Late in the record their second turn is the other side of the coin. Joe Deaton's "Mr. & Mrs. Used to Be" eavesdrops on a divorcing couple who can't understand what went wrong. "I can't put all the blame on you, for some belongs to me, what started out as heaven reached an end," the pair sighs.

The relative youngsters in the group provide some of Prine's best pairings. Amanda Shires (34) helps him re-imagine the solo lament "Dim Lights, Thick Smoke and Loud, Loud Music" as a conversation between a "home loving man" who wants his wife there with him and the children, and a woman who can't be that person. So far apart are their needs, you wonder how they ever got together in the first place. Miranda Lambert (33) trades gorgeous, heartbroken verses with Prine on Hank Williams' classic "Cold, Cold Heart." Instead of singing to each other, they each seem to be thinking of their own icy love. Williams' granddaughter Holly (35) joins him for "I'm Telling You," yet another tale of an unrepentant cheater given an ultimatum, though it's hard to tell who is who. The lone member of the under 30 club, Kacey Musgraves (28) is the best of the "kids." Her claims of "Mental Cruelty" are fraught with believable anguish, even as he claims those are "lying words." I can't help but wish she'd gotten a second song.

The final song on the record is a lesser known Williams track, "Just Waitin'." Prine takes this

one himself, after more speaking than singing a list of what a universe worth of things (people, places, inanimate objects) are waiting for, he concludes "Honey, I'm just waiting for you." Sounds like an invitation to volume three.

Mad Folk News is published monthly by the Madison Folk Music Society, a non-profit, volunteer-led society dedicated to fostering folk music in the Madison area.

Contact us at madfolk@charter.net. Learn about concerts, membership, scholarships, and volunteer opportunities at www.madfolk.org.

www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-Folk-Music-Society/34497984835

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Big Decision

My music partner Lou and I have decided to stop touring nationally. We have one more brief New York slog in April, but then we're winding down, and gigging only closer to home. I find myself reminiscing, and don't know if Whither Zither needs to know about it, but what the heck.

We will miss so dearly the far flung friends, venues, and audiences we have come to love so passionately. The memories tumble: The church basement, storefront, garage, living room, back yard, circus tent, nature preserve, union hall, general store, grange hall, opera house, coffeehouse, restaurant, tavern, museum, library, hay wagon, flatbed trailer, town hall, baseball diamond, barn, office building, airplane hangar, boat dock, health spa, rec room, winery warehouse, polyethylene inflatable igloo.

Down the ancient steps to the legendary Club Passim in Cambridge MA; up the narrow steps to the funky famed Caffe Lena of Saratoga Springs NY; down the crowded steps to the cozy Cornelia St Cafe in Greenwich Village; up the mountain in a steam train to a mountain stage in Fir, Colorado.

Through two terrifying post-gig freezing rains, one in Boston in the 80's, the other in Minneapolis fifteen years later, both treacherous hours-long bumper-car slides back to motels. Hot drive to Omaha in '76 Chevy Malibu we called the Green Banana with cigarette-lighter plug-in fan blown over huge ice block for AC. Pieces of pie in Cozad Nebraska restaurant while waiting for new fuel pump for Nissan wagon on the way to Denver. The first missed gig because of weather, early season blizzard Oct 26, 1987, supposed to be in Kingsbury NY but we spent the night snowed in in Chicopee, MA.

We played Berkeley's Freight and Salvage many times both before and after their big move, and the famed Ark in Ann Arbor in all of their increasingly swank locations. Loved playing the songwriter hotspot of Bellingham WA, the enthusiastic Portland Folklore Society, various sweet venues in

Seattle including the Roadrunner Cafe where we tried the exhausting experiment of two shows in one night (mistake). Played in the cattle town of Dodge City Kansas, where they told us if we climbed a nearby hill we could see all the feedlots in town. Played the wonderful middle-of-nowhere Sangerville Maine grange hall; best pie in the world. Had the honor of Tom Lehrer in our audience on the west coast, Noam Chomsky in on the east coast, and, thanks to connections made by our friend Bob Blackman, folk DJ at WKAR in Lansing MI, the Pulitzer prize winning author and favorite of mine Doug Hofstadter in Bloomington Indiana came to our show, and drove out to our sleazy motel later that night in his old station wagon as we sat in crumbling adirondack chairs waiting to flag him because the lights were burned out over our room numbers.

We played festivals: the Ozark Folk Center State Park Festival of Humor and Storytelling where we were kindly received, which made me feel great because the late Jimmie Driftwood help start the Folk Center, and he's a songwriting hero of mine. Played Kentucky Folk Music Weekend in Louisville where we yakked with the traditional music superhero Jean Ritchie. Played the Big Muddy in Booneville, MO, more than once, and Juel Ulven's labor of love, the Fox Valley Festival in Geneva, IL. We played three Canadian Festivals: Winnipeg, where someone proposed marriage during one of our workshops; Mariposa in Toronto where we had a wonderful workshop with Si Kahn, Oscar Brand, Artisan, and Len Wallace, in old labor hall in Toronto; and the first Stan Rogers festival in Canso Nova Scotia where they shut down the town's canneries for the weekend so the workers could help run the fest. Played the Philadelphia Folk Festival; Boston Folk Festival; Golden Link festival in Honeoye Falls NY where we met the great Sam Hinton; Old Songs Festival near Albany where we had a bizarre workshop with Dr. Demento and Utah Phillips. Played the Festival at the Fort in Omaha; Adams Avenue Roots Festival in San Diego; Hiawatha fest in the UP where we slept in pup tents in a thunderstorm. Had a rip roaring workshop with Peggy Seeger at the Champlain Valley Folk Festival in Vermont.

Memories include helping folk icon Faith Petric, in her 90s, onto the stage to join us at the Freight & Salvage; eating blueberries with Pete Seeger and Guy Carawan in

a motel parking lot in Schenectady. Sitting on the ferry on the way to mainland US from Victoria BC gig fixing Lou's accordion monopod with wire and epoxy; Playing to a sold-out hall in Grand Rapids MI thanks to a newspaper article titled "Divorced Couple Sings Funny Songs."

Live radio was always a nervous treat. Had giggly radio interviews in Boston, Berkeley, Santa Cruz and other places on the mornings of the gigs, or sometimes the morning after; Minnesota Public Radio had us on their Morning Show many fun times; we loved the bucolic drive to Cedar Falls IA and Live from Studio One on KUNI; National Public Radio's Flea Market with Jim Post and Art Thieme in Chicago; KPIG in Santa Cruz, Robbie Osman's show Across the Great Divide from KPFA in Berkeley; Susan Forbes Hansen's Valley Folk on WFCR in Amherst MA, our dear friend Matt Watroba who had us on his WDET show Folks Like Us many times over the years in Detroit and who now is a touring musician himself; Rich Warren and the WFMT Folkstage in Chicago, and many more, including Garrison Keillor's show where we appeared thrice with a twenty year hiatus between the second and third times...

So many marvelous friends opened up their homes for house concerts, such as songwriter and ceramic artist Barbara Svoboda of Catonsville MD, poet Marilyn Robertson of Felton CA, the multi talented Murray Callahan of Havertown PA, trad musicians Anne Dodson and Matt Szostak on the Maine coast, the amazing Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer in Silver Spring MD, the hilarious Therapy Sisters of Austin TX, old friends from the late New Folk Collective Doug and Mary Olsen of St Paul MN, Woody and Rebecca Fridae of Winters, CA, and so many, many more; the list goes on and on and on and on.

And on we blundered through stage fright, contact dermatitis, laryngitis, colds, flues, cancer, panic attacks, kidney stones, shingles, motion sickness, arthritis, bedbugs, and nocturnal twitches. Here's to the twilight navigation through unfamiliar streets, the search for last minute pre-gig taco or breath mint, the butterflies, the big hellos, the fun of music, the wild laughs, huge coffee pots. The tired good byes, the haunted motels. And now, back to Wisconsin. But not without special thanks to our mentor, Michael Cooney, for talking us out of the state in the first place. --WZ, Feb 2017

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“Chad Elliott stands out as a timeless and genuine musical poet with supple-strong roots like the bluestem and buffalo grass of Iowa prairie.”
- *NoDepression.com*



Madison Folk Music Society PRESENTS

Chad Elliott

Saturday, February 25, 2017

7:30 pm

THE BRINK LOUNGE, 701 E. Washington, Suite 105

Tickets \$12 advance, \$15 day of show

Available at: www.madfolk.org,

Spruce Tree Music, Orange Tree Imports

Non-perishable donations of food will be collected for local food banks.



The Mad Folk Refrigerator Cover

February 2017

Mad Folk Events



Chad Elliot

Saturday, February 25 - \$12 adv / \$15 d.o.s. @The Brink

Venues



18 S. Water St.
Ft. Atkinson, WI
cafecarpe.com
920-563-9391

Cafe Carpe

All shows at 8:30pm unless indicated otherwise

- Sat, Feb 4, Bill Camplin Band - \$10
- Thu, Feb 9, New Pioneers - @7pm - \$10
- Tue, Feb 14, John Elliott - @7:30pm - \$10
- Thu, Feb 23, Song Circle w/ Tricia Alexander - @7pm - \$5
- Fri, Feb 24, Kaia Fowler / Mark Dvorak - \$10
- Sat, Feb 25, Ben Franklin & Baron von Steuben vs. the Paine County School Board - @7:30pm - \$12
- Thu, Mar 2, Dan Navarro - \$15

The Brink Lounge

- Fri, Feb 24, Lou and Peter Berryman Old Songs Night/40th Anniversary/70th Birthdays - @7:30pm - \$15 adv / \$18 d.o.s.
- Sat, Feb 25, Chad Elliot - @7pm - \$12 adv / \$15 d.o.s.



701 E. Washington
thebrinklounge.com
608-661-8599



Wil-Mar Center
953 Jenifer St.
wildhuginthewoods.org
608-233-5687

Wild Hog in the Woods

- Feb 3 - John Duggleby - @8pm
- Feb 10 - Michael Bell and Chris Powers - @8pm
- Feb 17 - Lynn Smith - @8pm
- Feb 24 - Barry Wayne Callen and Friends - @8pm

FOLKLORE VILLAGE ...passing it on

3210 Cty Hwy BB
Dodgeville, WI
folklorevillage.org
608-924-4000

Folklore Village

- Sat, Feb 4th -- Potluck & Barn Dance (dance starts at 7:15pm)
- Tue, Feb 7th -- Open Mic @7pm

Irish Cultural & Heritage Center
2133 W Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI -- ichc.net
414-345-8800

All Shows are \$10 Advance and day of show w/ Student ID

- Sat, Feb 18 - Makem and Clancy - 7:30pm -- \$21 adv/\$25d.o.s.
- Fri, April 21 - Trian - 7:30pm -- \$21 adv/\$25d.o.s.

Gigs

Dave & Anne Host Folk

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

For full details or to request an invitation, contact Dave & Anne at annedave@chorus.net

- March 5th @ 7:30 pm (doors at 7) Brother Sun - \$20 / \$17 under 18

Mike and Carol's House

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

For full details or to request an invitation, contact Mike at maddog-210@charter.net

- March 11th @ 8 (doors at 7:30) Ari & Mia Friedman from Boston \$15
- April 9 @ 7 (doors 6:30) Mustard's Retreat \$15

Emma's Revolution

• Feb 11th @ 7:30pm James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation
2146 E Johnson St., Madison, WI - \$20 adv / \$22 d.o.s.

Dane County Famers Market Music

Madison Senior Center - Market 7:30AM-Noon
Band plays approximately 8:30am - 11:30am

- Feb 4 - Leaves of Green
- Feb 11 - Cajun Spice
- Feb 18 - Love, Light & Harmony
- Feb 25 - Charlene Adzima
- Mar 4 - On The Fence
- Mar 11 - The Bear Milkers
- Mar 18 - Michael DeGregoria
- Mar 25 - Andy and his BlueGrass Friends
- Apr 1 - Mid-town Jazz Trio
- Apr 8 - Water Street Bridge

Common Chord (Michael Bryant & Tracy Jane Comer + friends)

- Sat, Feb 11, 2017 - @ 7pm - Prairie Coffeehouse, Spring Prairie Lutheran Church, N509 County Road C De Forest Wisconsin WI 53532 - Free (donations) - (608) 846-4178
- Thu, Mar 16, 2017 - @ 7pm - The Brink Lounge, 701 East Washington St., Madison, WI 53703 - Free (donations) - (608) 770-2640
- Thu, Apr 20, 2017 - @ 7pm - The Brink Lounge, 701 East Washington St., Madison, WI 53703 - Free (donations) - (608) 770-2640
- Thu, Sep 7, 2017 - Tracy Jane Comer (solo) - @ 2pm - The Heights at Evansville Manor, 201 North Fourth Street, Evansville, WI 53536 - (608) 882-9995
- Sat, Mar 11, 2017 - @7pm - Lakeside Street Coffee House, 402 W. Lakeside St, Madison WI, 53715 - Free (donations)- (608)441-7599
- Fri, Mar 31, 2017 - @8pm - Wild Hog In The Woods Wil Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St., Madison, WI 53703 - (608)-233-5687

Misc

Old Time Jam

Monthly - 3rd Sunday of every month, 4 to 6pm

EVP West 3809 Mineral Point Road

Coodinator: Al Wilson

cell: 608-572-0634

adwilson@pediatrics.wisc.edu

Madison Area Ukulele Initiative -- Singalongs 3rd Sunday 11am - 1:30pm
- for location visit www.MAUMadison.com

On the Air



wpr.org

Simply Folk on Wisconsin Public Radio w/ Stephanie Elkins, Host

Sun 5:00-8:00pm

Concerts recorded in Wisconsin, music and dance of people the world over. For playlists, calendars, station listings, and more, visit www.wpr.org/simplyfolk.



wort-fm.org

WORT 89.9 FM community radio

Sun -- 3:00-5:00pm

• "On the Horizon" w/ Ford Blackwell, Paul Novak, Gloria Hays & Helena White

Weekdays 9:00am-noon

- Mon - Global Revolutions (folk from the world over) w/ Dan Talmo & Martin Alvarado
- Tue -- One Fine Morning w/ P.C. Allen
- Wed -- Back to the Country (country music on a theme) w/Bill Malone
- Thur -- Diaspora (folk and international) w/Terry O'
- Fri -- Mud Acres (bluegrass and acoustic) w/Chris Powers

WMUU 102.9 FM

- Sat - Exiles Return with Elizabeth Delaquess
- 4-6am and again from 10am-noon

Madison Dance

• African/African-American Dance classes with live drumming -- Sun, 7:00-9:00pm -- Metro Dance, 3009 University Ave. -- 255-3677 / 251-4311

• SpiritMoves Ecstatic Dance 2nd and 4th Weds, 7:00-9:00 pm -- The Center for Conscious Living, 849 East Washington Ave. -- \$7 min. donation

• English Country Dance taught -- 1st and 3rd Mon, 7:30-9:30pm -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 238-9951 or 238-9951

• International Dancing -- Wed and Sun; classes 7:30-8:30pm, request dancing 8:30-11:00pm -- The Crossing, 1127 University Ave. -- 241-3655

• Irish Dancing -- Monthly Ceili and set dance events are posted at celticmadison.org/dance

• Italian Dancing -- Tue, 7:00-9:00pm, no experience or partner necessary -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 838-9403 (Philana)

• Madison Contra Dance Cooperative -- Tue; 7:30 jam band practice, intermediate level dancing 7:45-9:40pm -- \$5 for non-members -- Gates of Heaven, 302 E. Gorham -- 238-3394 (Steve)

• Morris Dancing -- Wed, 7:00pm -- call for location -- 238-9951

• Scottish Country Dancing -- Sun, 7:00pm -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 233-2956

Is this your last copy of *Mad Folk News*?

There are two ways to renew your **tax-deductible** membership

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Way #2 – unplugged

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